Case 1:12-cv-01905-RFT Document 7 Filed 02/04/13 Page 1 of 2

U.S. DISTRICT COURT N.D. OF N.Y. FILED

SUBJECT: Civil No: 1: 12-CV-1905(GLS/RFT) FEB 0 4 2013

FROM: Matthew Pierce LAWRENCE K, BAERMAN, CLERK

ALBANY

C.C.- Swendown E. Cerroll A.U.S.A. - By hend Delivy

My name is Matthew Pierce and the purpose of this letter is to verify a claim made on \$35,850 USD in Civil No: 1: 12-CV-1905(GLS/RFT). The money in question was taken from my home on July 26th 2012 by agents executing a search warrant on my residence, 397 State St apt # PH1 Albany N.Y. 12210. There was a small amount of marijuana taken from my home as well as \$35,850 in cash. The confiscated money was separate from, and in no way related to, the marijuana found in my home. In the last two years before the search I have been chasing my dream of becoming a professional poker player with reasonable success. In the last 12 months prior to the search I won close to \$75,000 in taxable winnings from poker tournaments alone. Less than 1 month before the search I placed 11th out of 2534 entrants in event #22 at the 2012 World Series of Poker. This paid gross winnings of \$33,427. This was the money taken from my apartment. I still owe every dollar of the taxes owed on this money. Enclosed is a copy of the W-2G filed by the Rio-All-Suite Hotel & Casino where the money was won. As a poker player I have become accustomed to having large amounts of cash on hand. I am yet to be charged with any crime and the money seized was in no way connected to the reason for the search of my home. That money was my entire poker bankroll and without it I cannot pursue my legal and tax generating profession. I currently employed full-time, working for Alpine Environmental as an air technician to make ends meet. The taxes for this money are due in April and while I'm able to survive on my job, I cannot pay these taxes without the money I won.

Additionally, I have recently been offered a job in commercial real estate for a small firm in Clifton Park, NY. I previously worked in residential real estate before playing poker, and this is a potential six-figure job opportunity that I do not want to pass up. Unfortunately it takes about a year before you start getting paid in commercial real estate, so having my poker winnings to supplement my income is crucial to my success in this new endeavor. I do not believe there is a legal reason for my money to be withheld. That being said, I am certainly willing to discuss ways to save the state the cost of a hearing in this matter and to speed up the resolution of this case. I am at your disposal to discuss the situation. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Matthew Pierce

518-542-4813

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